

New Hampshire Coastal Program Working Strategic Plan 2006-2009

Goal 1: Improve New Hampshire's management of ocean resources.

A. Improve our understanding of New Hampshire's ocean resources so that we have the information we need to implement current policies.

Strategies:

- 1. Increase our knowledge of the interests and attitudes of the citizens of New Hampshire towards coastal resources.*
- 2. Develop informational resources for internal use and for partners and clients.*
- 3. Provide opportunities for local decision makers and coastal residents to learn about coastal management issues.*

B. Support regional ocean-related organizations and task forces in order to learn from others and leverage other efforts to protect coastal resources.

Strategy: Participate in Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative, Northeast Regional Association of Ocean Observing Systems, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership, and the Gulf of Maine Council Ocean Policy Group.

C. Increase the ability of state agencies to manage coastal resources collaboratively.

Strategies:

- 1. Develop and implement new ocean and coastal policies that improve New Hampshire's ability to respond to proposals for new/different offshore uses.*
- 2. Conduct an in-depth analysis of trends in coastal issues, research other Coastal Zone Management ocean policy programs, and identify gaps in New Hampshire's enforceable policies related to ocean activity.*
- 3. Develop new policies to address gaps.*

Goal 2: Improve science-to-management in local communities.

A. Increase community planning to protect water resources.

Strategies:

- 1. Continue to participate in the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition.*
- 2. Partner with other NHDES programs and organizations, like the Wetlands Bureau and the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, to help communities designate Prime Wetlands. If possible, set aside small amount of 306 money for one community to use on an annual basis.*
- 3. Work intensively with a community that's updating the water resources section of its master plan, to make sure that all the water-related information is included in the planning and decision-making process (groundwater, buffers, restoration, etc.).*
- 4. Continue to connect local decision makers with information needed to protect water resources, like new planning tools and resources, through The Rip Tide and the website.*

B. Support organizations and entities that assist communities with planning and data collection, compilation and interpretation.

Strategy: Provide funding to organizations and entities that assist communities with planning, data collection, compilation and interpretation.

C. Empower volunteer monitoring groups to ask and answer questions that are locally and regionally useful to decision makers.

Strategies:

- 1. Develop and implement the Coastal Volunteer Biological Assessment Program.*
- 2. Conduct needs assessment of watershed groups related to monitoring, restoration, and education.*
- 3. Share and act on the results of the needs assessment.*

Goal 3: Protect and restore natural habitats in the coastal watershed.

A. Participate in developing, revising, and implementing state policies that protect coastal resources.

Strategies:

- 1. Participate in the development of reworking wetlands, river, or habitat wetland-related rules.*
- 2. Continue to review federal actions for consistency with state policies.*

B. Support restoration financially and through technical assistance.

Strategies:

- 1. Maintain Competitive Grants Program.*
- 2. Continue to respond to community requests for technical assistance on restoration projects.*
- 3. Build creative partnerships to increase the scale and pace of habitat restoration.*
- 4. Expand restoration technical assistance beyond the coastal zone to coastal watershed.*

C. Transition from salt marsh restoration to other types of habitat restoration and protection.

Strategies:

- 1. Partner with watershed groups and communities to implement river restoration projects.*
- 2. Continue coordinating New Hampshire Coastal Invasives Partnership.*
- 3. Identify, plan and implement dam removal projects.*
- 4. Lead development of river barrier removal monitoring protocols for the Gulf of Maine Region.*
- 5. Oversee CELCP program.*
- 6. Analyze salt marsh monitoring data and share with broader audience.*

Goal 4: Build program capacity to carry out our mission.

A. Build program visibility.

Strategies:

- 1. Continue communications with grantees and partners on project products and outcomes.*
- 2. Participate on Gulf of Maine Times editorial board.*
- 3. Participate in regional education and outreach groups such as PEPSI and POET.*
- 4. Share our work at conferences and workshops such as NEAB, RAE, AWRA, etc.*
- 5. Continue broad advertisement of Competitive Grants Program.*

B. Collaborate with a wide range of partners.

Strategies:

- 1. Seek collaborations with new partners and continue to strengthen existing partnerships.*
- 2. Continue commitment to a Competitive Grants program that supports a diverse set of projects.*
- 3. Expand our knowledge of the needs and interests of watershed groups through a needs assessment.*

C. Implement the strategic plan.

Strategies:

- 1. Proactively seek funds and partnerships to implement new initiatives identified in this plan.*
- 2. Implement internal changes identified in strategic planning process.*